(b) The Rubber Board organises training programmes for small rubber growers to help improve quality of natural rubber production. The details of programmes organised in the current financial year are:

S. No.	Name of course	Duration	No. of batches	No. of participants
1.	Short-term course on rubber culture and estate management.	18 days	1	24
2.	Short-term course for small holders on rubber cultivation and crop processing.	5 days	3	36
3.	Rubber Processing	5 days	2	32
4.	Grading of Sheet Rubber	1 day	6	17
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In addition to these programmes, 935 small growers have also participated in one-day visits organised by the Rubber Board for familiarisation of various aspects of Rubber cultivation and Processing.

(c) Small holdings in the country are estimated at 9.11 lakh of which 8,37,400 (Small holdings - 8,23,035 and Marginal holdings 14, 365) are estimated to be in Kerala.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Rubber Board is giving financial assistance for establishing smoke houses (at the rate of Rs. 3000/= per smoke house), for procuring rubber sheeting rollers (at the rate of Rs. 1000/-= for a Sheeting Roller) and also for essential utensils for rubber processing to the small growers.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. Rubber Producing Societies (RPS) are establishing community smoke houses for cleaning/improving the grade of rubber sheets produced by the members. Washing and cleaning operations of rubber sheets are undertaken by the Private smoke houses as well.

(h) Steps to ensure production of best quality of rubber include imparting training to the growers, organising mass contact companies and group meetings. The Rubber Board is also extending financial and technical assistance for development of infrastructural facilities and supplying plantation equipments at concessional rates to small growers.

Inspection of Exporting Firms

1191. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BENDEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of exporting firms against whom complaints have been received by the Government during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of such exporting firms inspected by the Government during the above period;

(c) whether the Government propose to take action against those firms which have been found guilty; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the name of agency by whom action/inspection has been taken against these firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d) Complaints against exporters may be received by various offices of the Government with whom exporting firms have an interface. It is therefore, difficult to quantify the exact number of such firms against whom complaints have been received by the Government, particularly, in the absence of any details regarding the specific nature of the complaints. As per present Policy, exporting firms are not subjected to routine inspection by Government authorities unless there are prima facie reasons to inspect them. In the DGFT set-up, such inspections are generally carried out either by Enforcement-cum-Adjudication Division of the Headquarter's office, or by the Enforcement Wings of its regional offices. In cases where the exporting firms are found guilty, appropriate penal action is taken against such firms under the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992, and the Rules made thereunder.

Mushrooming of Non-Banking Financial Companies

1192. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether non-banking financial companies are mushrooming in India;

(b) if so, whether some of the financial companies have violated statutory requirements of the RBI Act:

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether RBI has issued any warning to such companies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government against such financial companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that at present there are about 41000 non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) on the mailing list of RBI's Regional Offices.

(b) and (d) Yes, Sir.